

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 14, lines 15-21 of the specification as follows:

In this manner, the SDH network management system 78 can determine via interrogation of the SDH network element 76, which ~~is turn in turn~~ interrogates the host network termination element 90, whether or not optical Ethernet format information is present at terminal 94 and the network management system 78 can determine via interrogation of the SDH network element 76, which in turn interrogates the user network termination element ~~94~~ 84, whether or not electrical Ethernet format information is present at terminal 88.

Please amend the paragraph bridging pages 14-15 of the specification as follows:

It will be noted that the SDH network management system 78 can also determine via interrogation of the SDH network element 76, which in turn interrogates the host network termination element 90 and/or the user network termination element ~~94~~ 84, a number of different status indicators, including, but not limited to carrier sense error, deferred transmissions, excessive collisions, frame check sequence errors, excessive frame lengths, internal media access channel receive errors, late collision frame, multiple collision frames, correct total broadcast frames received, correct total frames received, correct total frames transmitted, correct total multicast frames received and correct unicast frames received.